



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

---

## NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Robert Glazier  
Jerry Jones  
Jaime Arteaga  
Legislation and Public Affairs  
916-653-2192  
Fax 916-653-2611  
June 10, 2004

### VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA – BARSTOW RECERTIFIED BY USDVA

The Veterans Home of California – Barstow has been fully recertified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) thus ensuring that per diem reimbursements for members in Domiciliary and Intermediate Care continue to be received by the Veterans Home. The next recertification visit by the USDVA is scheduled at the end of 2004.

A team of five USDVA representatives conducted the recertification survey on Monday, June 7, 2004. The team conducted their review and afterwards recommended the continued certification for the Home and continued USDVA per diem reimbursements.

"I congratulate and thank all the staff and residents for their continued efforts of making the Veterans Home of California in Barstow a place worthy of being called home by our State's veterans," stated Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "Thank you all for your never-ending hard work."

---

### NEW CAL-VET HOME AND FARM LOAN INTEREST RATES ANNOUNCED

Effective June 1, 2004, the current Cal-Vet loan rates are as follows:

- **4.95%** – For wartime veterans who served before January 1, 1977 and who apply for a loan before 30 years of their release from service,
- **5.10%** – For veterans who are first-time homebuyers or who purchase properties in a target area. These funds are available to all veterans subject to income and purchase price limits and recapture tax liability, and
- **5.5%** – For all other veterans with wartime service.

The maximum Cal-Vet loan amount for the purchase of a mobile home located within a mobile home park has increased from \$70,000 to \$125,000. The maximum allowable Cal-Vet loan amount for a farm has also increased to 150% of the maximum Cal-Vet home loan amount. Currently, the maximum home loan amount is \$333,700, set to coincide with the annual Fannie Mae limit; thus making the new maximum farm loan amount \$500,550.

## FLAG DAY – TWO SOLDIERS FROM IRAQ TO BE HONORED

1st Sgt. Paul George, 270th Military Police (MP) Company, and retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5) Arleen Wattel, California Army National Guard, will be awarded the California State Military History Medal, the state's highest honor, for their service in Iraq. Attend the medal awarding ceremony and listen to them share their experiences as they fought to free Iraq and maintain the peace in that desert nation.

This event takes place Monday, June 14, 2004 (Flag Day) at 11:00 a.m. at the California State Military Museum and Resource Center, 1119 Second St. in historic Old Sacramento. For more information call 916.442.2883.

---

## NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES COME TO ST. LOUIS

More than 500 disabled veterans will compete in the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, the 24<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games, June 15-19 in St. Louis.

The Wheelchair Games, presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments. The St. Louis VA Medical Center, VA's Heartland Network and the PVA Gateway Chapter are hosting the 2004 games.

The 24<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games begin June 15 with a wheelchair basketball demonstration at Kiener Plaza, as well as the 2004 Disabled Sports, Recreation and Fitness Expo. The Expo is among the largest exhibitions of products and services related to the health, well-being, sports and recreational needs of people with disabilities.

Many of the events will be held at St. Louis' America's Center, also the site for the opening and closing ceremonies. Other venues include Shaw Aquatic Center, North Oaks Bowl, St. Clair Lanes, Forest Park, Winchester Trap & Skeet and the St. Louis Zoo.

For more information about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, or to follow events as they happen, visit the Games website at <http://www.wheelchairgames.org>.

---

Individuals or organizations wishing to subscribe or unsubscribe to this service may contact us via email at [newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov) or by telephone at 1-800-952-5626 or 916-653-2192. For more news and information of interest to veterans, visit our website at <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/>.